NGA Supports CGSC

"NGA provides significant capabilities and expertise in terrain visualization and digital imagery as we push our students to fully analyze the available data so that they can make better command decisions in the heat of battle."

LTC(R) Jonathan M. Williams
Instructor, Center for Army Tactics
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By Ralph Erwin and Marsha Mocaby

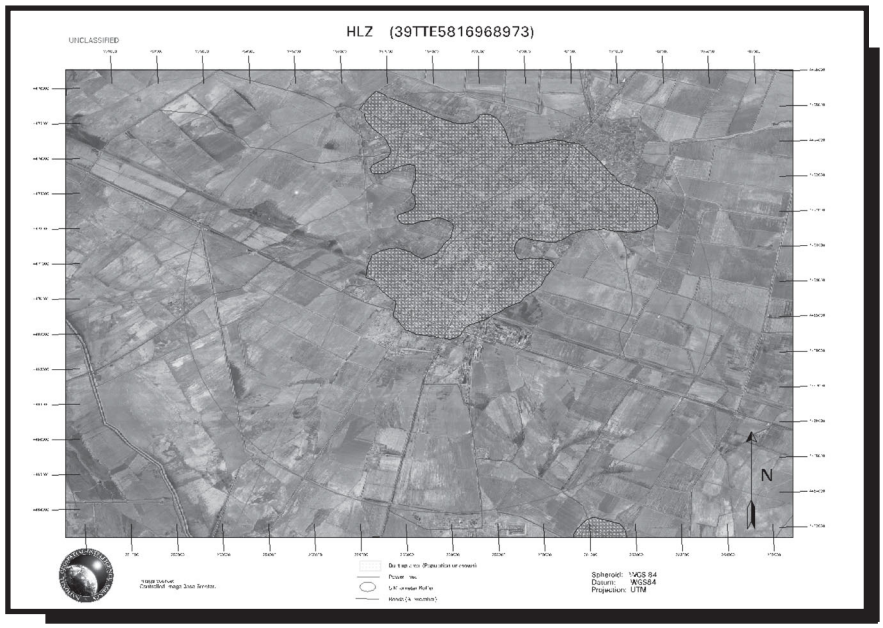
The National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) is an integral part of the education process of joint military exercises at the Army's Command and General Staff College (CGSC), Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. For the past four years, the NGA Support Team-Army (NST-A) and NGA Production and Analysis Directorates' EurAsia/Africa Office (PE) have supported the annual division level exercise. This past April, ten NST-A and PE analysts were directly engaged with students in their staff groups during the execution phase of the simulation-driven exercise.

Concept

CGSC has developed an intermediate-level education (ILE) concept for midcareer military officers. This concept provides for an ILE common-core course followed by an advanced applications program. The focus of the ILE common-core course is to teach about the joint, interagency, and multinational operational warfighting environment. During the ILE common-core course, NGA is introduced as a Department of Defense combat support agency and a member of the United States intelligence community. Following the core course, CGSC students continue into the advanced applications program, which focuses on their immediate follow-on duty requirements. During the advanced applications program, NGA is integrated into the curriculum for space applications, military intelligence, and joint planner courses.

Collaboration

The collaboration between NGA and the CGSC has been unique and challenging for both the professional analysts and the military students. By integrating NGA geospatial intelligence and imagery analysts into the classrooms, students gained an information edge on mission analysis and decision-making processes. In turn, the NGA analysts were able to see directly how geospatial intelligence was used to achieve military objectives based on warfighter battlespace visualization requirements. Students submitted requests for information that guided the analysis by the NGA professionals. Analysts generated standard and nonstandard geospatial intelligence products for CGSC students.



Request from the Tactics cell to build a Geo-Intelligence product to support a hostage evacuation operation. (Space Imaging LLC, purchased ClearView licensed imagery.)

The student decision makers in this year's exercise were provided with relevant, accurate, predictive, and actionable geospatial intelligence. The instructors and students achieved a reliable understanding of the battlespace by integrating specific geospatial

intelligence data sets, expert analysis, and visualization tools (such as the Maneuver Control System-Light and NGA's FalconView™.)

Recommendations

To continue enhancing the CGSC curriculum and incorporate NGA's intelligence preparation of the environment (IPE), the following will be addressed:

- Integrating NGA regional, geospatial intelligence, and imagery analysts into the mission-planning phase of CGSC exercises.
- Engaging a terrain team-like capability sponsored by the United States Army Engineer School, United States Training and Doctrine Command Program Integration Office for Terrain Data.
- Increasing the instructor and student awareness about NGA support and capabilities during the entire education process.
- Identifying anticipated geospatial intelligence and IPE products for battlespace visualization, mission analysis, and decision making to support the exercise.
- Increasing the insertion of mobile training teams and train-the-trainer sessions led by the NGA Defense Geospatial-Intelligence School.
- Identifying how imagery analysis and exploitation (as part of the imagery intelligence cycle) can be incorporated as part of the exercise simulation during the ILE core course and advanced applications program.
- Incorporating knowledge bases and understanding of different human behavioral patterns, cultures, regions, and societal influences necessary for stabilization, reconstruction, and humanitarian support missions into the ILE core course and advanced applications program.

Conclusion

The NST-A and PEs have been successful in demonstrating NGA's core competencies at the Army's CGSC. They have been an integral part of the education process during the ILE core course and advanced applications program. Continued collaboration with the CGSC will enhance the skills of NGA analysts and the decision making of these military leaders.

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